found that licenses were being promptly issued. I would, however, write to the Commissioner, if you could give me a list of undisposed of applications for licenses in your locality.

35. Need for a law to penalise or to prevent the sale of putrid fish for human consumption.

Mr. A. R. St. George (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) withdrew his representation.

36. Grievances of the people regarding the Registration Rules and suggestions for removing them.

Mr. N. Subbaraya Shenoi (Member, Municipal Council, Alleppey) represented the grievances which the public experienced as a result of certain provisions in the Rules recently issued under Section 64 of the Registration Regulation, II of 1087. He said that certain persons were entitled to apply to the registration officer for attendance at their residence for recording admission in documents and that such applications had to be promptly acceded to by the officer concerned. He referred to Rule 58 (clauses 1 & 2) of the Rules which laid down that the registering officer should, if required, in the course of attendance at a private residence, accept for registration or record the admission in respect of the several documents executed by one person, or record, in respect of the same document or documents, the admission also of other persons, residing together *and entitled to the concession*, and similarly also in regard to the several powers-of-attorney executed by the same person or signatures to a joint power-of-attorney of several persons residing together *and entitled to the concession*. The Member said that the words "and entitled to the concession" in the above Rule, besides causing much inconvenience to the parties, made it impossible for the registering officer to complete the execution of the document in one and the same place and in the presence of all the parties, and that led to unnecessary dispute and litigation. He, therefore, suggested that the words "and entitled to the concession" be deleted from Rule 58, so that the registering officer might record the admission of all the parties residing together in one and the same place, as was the case formerly.

The Member next suggested that Rule 24 of the Registration Rules, which disallowed the Director of Registration to order the registration of certain documents wherein property was described by a specific reference to an instrument which had been registered in the same office, might be so modified as to empower the Director to issue general orders to all registering officers to register documents relating to cancellation, further charge, receipt, reconveyance of mortgaged property, etc., wherein (4) Mr. laries of the properties were not given in full, but only the survey numbers duty to con a, provided that such documents referred to instruments which were pretered as between the same parties and at the same office.

The Member prayer of the Member was that, in view of the commercial imporlves with all mo , the Sub-Registrar of that town might be empowered to receive erica where absolute cument irrespective of the question as to where the properties States whose Govern uated, additional fees for the purpose being imposed by the the demon of drink.

lso and the Member urged

emperance among the peber suggested that a set of forms and registers might be fall in the State revenue con of chitties, so as to enable them to maintain uniform population which did not wa so as to facilitate the examination of such records by f heavier taxation. e Member also prayed that the Registration Rules The Member then suggested the ee of experienced officers.

(1) the non-intervention of th representations will be disposed of after consulting by Ezhavas ;

(2) the administration of the **e abolition of the practice of producing before Sub-**the sale of intoxicants, includi**nts presented for registration.**nd ganja ;

(Member, Nominated) stated that, between th

(3) the early adoption of the ctice of preserving duplicate copies of registered

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

documents was in vogue, people enjoyed greater security in regard to registered documents, as would be evident from the following circumstances.

Copies presented by parties were carefully compared with original documents before acceptance, and then with the copies in the office register, and a third time with the index registers before they were sent to the central records office. That three-fold scrutiny also served to bring to light irregularities in procedure and in the realisation of stamp duty and registration fees. Mistakes in the names of parties, house names, description of properties, etc. could also be detected then and there. Attempts to make corrections in the documents either in the office register of documents or in the original documents themselves were effectively prevented by the existence of duplicate copies in the central records office which also bore the signature of the parties. On the other hand, under the present system, the Member contended that there was no possibility of replacing the records in the event of any accident happening to the registry office with the consequent destruction of records like the one that recently occurred in Malabar.

A reference to the index registers maintained under the present system was not helpful in clearing the doubts that might arise in respect of documents subsequent to their registry, since the half-yearly inspection of Sub-Registry offices by the District Registrars was perfunctory except in the matter of the examination of account books and certain office records such as those relating to chitties, and the defects and irregularities relating to registered documents remained undetected. Under the old system when duplicate copies were preserved and there was the three-fold verification mentioned above, many such defects and irregularities were actually brought to light and removed. Duplicate copies were now dispensed with under the baseless belief that such defects would not occur. In the circumstances, the Member prayed that the old system of presenting duplicate copies for registration might be re-introduced. He suggested that, by fixing the value of the copying sheets for the duplicates at 2 or 3 *chackrams* per sheet, Government might also derive a revenue of about Rs. 5,000 per annum.

Finally, the Member submitted that the duplicate copies of the documents registered during the period from 1043 to 1075 should not be destroyed as in those years it was not the practice to note in the office copies the corrections and erasures in the originals.

Dewan's reply.—In the opinion of the present Director of Registration, a second copy of these documents is not necessary. A single copy is enough and that is being preseved in the Sub-Registry Office. There is no room for storing the accumulated copies even under the present one-copy system, and if two copies are insisted on, the result will be much more unsatisfactory.

38. Delays in the Revenue, Judicial and Registration Offices for want of timely supervision.

Mr. Kanakku Govindan Achuthan (Member, Parur Taluk) in ventilating the grievances of the litigant public, dwelt at length on the delay in the disposal of cases in courts and revenue offices. Issues in contested suits were not settled in civil courts even after three years, and the disposal of such suits was inordinately delayed by unnecessary adjournments owing to the want of proper supervision of the lower courts by the High Court. He also referred to the hardships which the litigant public experienced on account of certain practical difficulties in the execution of decrees and observed that litigation had become so costly and troublesome that parties in most cases effected compromises even at a loss, rather than resort to the law courts. The Member then stated that the present system of supervision of the lower courts by the High Court was neither effective nor satisfactory, as it was done during vacation and in the absence of the contesting parties. He, therefore, requested that arrangements might be made for the speedy disposal of cases and for the more efficient supervision of the lower courts.

The Member next alluded to the present practice of Magistrates, especially the Division First Class Magistrate at Perumpavur, holding courts till late in the evening, and prayed that the said practice might be discontinued.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly